

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 6 are amended. Claims 7-16 are added. Applicants concurrently file herewith a petition and fee for a one-month extension of time.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

With respect to the prior art rejections, claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Oie (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,431 B1) (cited by Applicant in an Information Disclosure Statement filed September 25, 2003).

The rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The invention as recited in independent claim 1 for example, is directed to an image communication apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of image communication apparatuses in a server-client system, including an image display device which displays a recorded image, a selection device which selects an image to be transmitted to another image communication apparatus from among images displayed on the image display device, and a transmission device capable of transmitting to the plurality of image communication apparatuses the image selected by the selection device when a request to send the image is received from one or more of the plurality of image communication apparatuses (Application at page 2, lines 7-14).

This structure is important because the image transmitting apparatus may transmit a selected image upon receipt of an image transmission request from another image communication apparatus so that the user of the other image communication apparatus can receive the image without requiring confirmation of the user's destination address (Application at page 2, line 15-page 3, line 30).

In a conventional digital camera, as described in the Background of the present Application, a transmitter camera is required to determine if a receiver camera requested an image, set the destination address of the receiver camera and then perform a transmission

operation (Application at page 1, lines 15-29).

In contrast, an exemplary aspect of the claimed invention may allow an image to be transmitted from a transmitting apparatus to a receiving apparatus without the transmitting apparatus determining if the receiving apparatus requested the image and setting the destination address (Application at page 11, lines 23-94).

None of the applied references discloses or suggests this invention.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Oie Reference Rejection

In rejecting claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oie, the Examiner alleges that Oie discloses each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. However, there are features recited in the rejected claims that are not disclosed or suggested by Oie.

For example, Oie fails to disclose or suggest, a transmission device capable of transmitting to the plurality of image communication apparatuses the image selected by the selection device when a request to send the image is received from one or more of the plurality of image communication apparatuses.

Oie discloses a master camera 1a and a slave camera 1b. Each of the cameras 1a and 1b have an LCD display 6 that displays selected images. When a user desires to transmit a selected image, the shutter key 9 is depressed and a negotiation process begins between the master camera (transmitting camera) and the slave camera (receiving camera) (col. 5, lines 50-62).

The negotiation process, as shown in Fig. 4 of Oie for example, includes a transmission code TC that sets the slave camera into a receive mode. The master camera then transmits the displayed image (col. 6, lines 7-16). Thus, the transmission of the image to the slave camera does not occur as a result of a request from the slave. Rather, the transmission is controlled by the master 1a.

Moreover, in Oie, the transmission and reception of an image only occurs between a master and slave camera. There is no disclosure or suggestion that either the master camera 1a or the slave camera 1b is capable of transmitting to a plurality of image communication apparatuses the image selected by the selection device.

Regarding independent claim 3, Oie also fails to disclose or suggest, that either the

master camera 1a or the slave camera 1b “searches for a server device when the mode selecting device is in the image reception mode.”

In Oie, the master camera 1a is described as being able to either send or receive images from the slave camera (col. 5, line 49-col. 7, line 19). In other words in Oie, there are always only two known cameras involved in the process and no “search” takes place.

Regarding independent claim 6, Oie fails to disclose or suggest “selecting at a client side from a plurality of servers a server side to send a request for an image.” As discussed above, in Oie there is always a one-to-one relationship between master and slave. As such, Oie does not disclose or suggest a plurality of possible sources from which to select an image.

Because the applied reference fails to disclose or suggest the features of the rejected claims withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The applied reference of record also fails to disclose or suggest the additional features recited in new claims 7-16.

III. CONCLUSION

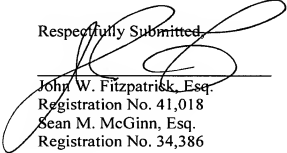
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-16, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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